

teen mothers on welfare in school. We are going to audit the progress of every State and make the results public. Second, we are going to make teen mothers who drop out of school go back to school and sign contracts that spell out exactly how they are going to take responsibility for their own lives. And third, we are giving States immediate authority to provide bonuses to teen mothers who go to school and graduate, and to cut back the checks of those who don't.

Finally, I'm challenging every State in the country to use its power to keep children who have children at home where they belong. There should be no incentive to leave home for a bigger welfare check. Unfortunately, even though they can, most States don't require teen mothers to live at home. That's wrong. Of course, if there is an abusive situation at home, children should be living in another safe, responsible setting. But we have to make it clear that a baby doesn't give you a right, and won't give you the money, to leave home and drop out of school. Today we are moving to make responsibility a way of life, not an option.

These commonsense steps have bipartisan support. They will help teen parents escape the cycle of dependency and start down the path to a successful future for themselves and their children. Now Congress needs to do its job and pass welfare reform. I'm glad that a group of bipartisan lawmakers is working on welfare reform. If Congress sends me a clean welfare reform plan that demands work, demands responsibility, protects children, and helps families stay together, I will sign it. Until then, I'll keep working to do everything in my power to reform welfare, step by step and State by State.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Map Room at the White House.

Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo, 1996

May 4, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Each year the Fifth of May reminds us of the blessings of our nation's rich cultural

diversity. The Mexican people have made profound and lasting contributions to our society, enriching our national life with the values of family, faith, and love of country.

In commemorating the victory of Mexico's army at the Battle of Puebla, we rededicate ourselves to strengthening the bonds of friendship and partnership between the peoples of Mexico and the United States. Our nations share a legacy of independence and courage in the face of adversity, and each time we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, we reaffirm our reverence for these ideals.

Hillary and I send best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday.

Bill Clinton

Remarks at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner

May 4, 1996

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Carl, Terry, Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker, Governor, to distinguished head table guests, to all the honorees tonight, my colleagues in the administration, to all the entertainers that made all the politicians feel that they came out to get a thrill instead of listen to me.

I apologize for being late tonight, but, as you know, I was at a charity event at Chelsea's school, auctioning off a game of golf. It brought in a few dollars.

Audience member. How much? Tell us how much.

Audience member. Could I ask a follow-up? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, I can tell you this, I know I was criticized for putting it up, but it was not bought by the ambassador from Iran. [*Laughter*] I was hoping Ralph Reed would buy it, but he didn't even bid. [*Laughter*]

Anyway, it got a little money, but the thing that disappointed me was that it didn't generate as much as I had hoped. So I was able to generate some serious cash for the Sidwell Friends School; I auctioned off the shoes I wore the day I shook hands with President Kennedy. [*Laughter*]

By the way, if there's anybody here who would be willing to pay \$500,000 for a Presi-